



## DELIVERING SERVICES, INFORMATION ONLINE

THE INTERNET PLAYS A KEY ROLE in DPR plans to make environmental data more available to the public and to improve our business services. DPR received \$1 million from the Legislature in 2000 to obtain computer hardware that will enhance Web access to pesticide data. It is the first step in long-term plans to provide online services to the regulated community and to allow better public access to searchable databases for pesticide use reports, residue monitoring results, ground and surface water data, and more.

### Task force targets illegal Web sales

The Internet has created new – and potentially illegal – venues for many goods and services. In January 2000, DPR launched an Internet-Mail Order Pesticide Sales Task Force to investigate and prosecute unlawful pesticide sales in California. Plans include amending existing laws and regulations, and educating the regulated community about pesticide laws. DPR's Legal Office directs the task force.

### Licensing goes electronic

*Through its licensing program, DPR works to ensure that professional pesticide users operate safely and effectively. DPR licenses about 200 pilots, 4,400 agricultural pest control advisors, and 8,000 pest control businesses across the state. Licensees must also register with the county agricultural commissioner in any county where they do business – resulting in about 18,000 transactions annually.*

**Streamlining operator registration.** To streamline and improve this process, DPR has created a Web-based “Intent to Operate” system that will start registrations with a single electronic filing. Licensees will go online to provide information such as each business location and company representative, and select all counties of operation. The system will verify business-related data (such as pest control violations), compile a report, and automatically forward the report electronically to each county.

This system will provide greater convenience for licensees. It will help county agricultural commissioners anticipate workloads and plan enforcement activities, such as equipment and records inspections. And it will enable DPR to determine where its licensees are operating. The first phase of “Intent to Operate” goes online by summer of 2001.



### Enhancing licensing, certification

DPR licenses pesticide applicators, pilots, advisors, and businesses. In 2000, DPR automated its examination results process and put the results online. DPR also began posting lists of valid license and certificate holders on its Web site. Updated

*County and chemical* PESTICIDE USE DATA  
ARE AVAILABLE ON DPR'S WEB SITE.



weekly, the lists are a valuable resource to county enforcement programs, licensees, and consumers. DPR also rolled out the first phase of an enforcement and compliance section on its Web site. DPR regularly sends out policy letters to county agricultural commissioners clarifying regulations. Letters issued in the past two years are now posted online.



Download surface water data now

DPR's Surface Water Database includes details on more than 4,600 water monitoring samples collected by various agencies. The samples were collected during the past nine years from rivers, creeks, Delta waterways, agricultural drains, sloughs, and urban storm drains. While the database does not contain comprehensive information on every California waterway, it provides a unique research tool for scientists, regulators, environmental advocates, and others concerned with water quality issues. However, because of the manner in which the data was archived, it was not readily accessible. In 2000, DPR added the Surface Water Database to the Department's Web pages. Data may be downloaded, or the database may be obtained on CD-ROM for a nominal fee.



Making pesticide data available to the public

*DPR's Pesticide Use Report is the largest and most complex database on pesticide use in the world. Since 1990, DPR has collected information on pesticide applications by California growers and commercial applicators. About 2.5 million pesticide use records are submitted annually to the County Agricultural Commissioners, validated, and compiled in DPR's database.*

**Improving data, providing analyses.** DPR completed a major upgrade of the system in 2000, providing online access to most summary use data. For example, the system now allows Web users to search for pesticide data by county and chemical. DPR also upgraded its use report processing system and improved data accuracy. Tentative use data for 2000 is expected to be released in mid-2001. Finally, DPR received legislative funding to conduct ongoing, statistical analyses of pesticide use trends. Such analyses are frequently requested by consumers, researchers, environmental advocates, and industry.



*In 2001,*

DPR PLANS

TO MAKE EVEN

MORE PESTICIDE DATA

AVAILABLE ONLINE.